

Righteous people are hard to find in this wicked world. Yet, millions today are following a righteous course. No doubt you are among them. You pursue that course because you love Jehovah, and Jehovah loves righteousness. How can we grow in our love for this beautiful attribute? This article will consider what righteousness is and how we benefit from loving it. We will also discuss what steps we can take to strengthen our love for this quality.

(Matthew 5:6) "Happy are those hungering and thirsting for righteousness, since they will be filled.

Paragraph 1

(Genesis 39:7-12) Now after these things, the wife of his master began to cast her eyes on Joseph and say: "Lie down with me." 8 But he refused and said to his master's wife: "Here my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has entrusted everything he has into my care. 9 There is no one greater in this house than I am, and he has not withheld from me anything at all except you, because you are his wife. So how could I commit this great badness and actually sin against God?" 10 So day after day she spoke to Joseph, but he never consented to lie with her or to remain with her. 11 But on one of the days when he went into the house to do his work, none of the household servants were in the house. 12 Then she grabbed hold of him by his garment and said: "Lie down with me!" But he left his garment in her hand and fled outside.

Paragraph 2

(Exodus 20:14) "You must not commit adultery.

(Genesis 2:24) That is why a man will leave his father and his mother and he will stick to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

(Genesis 12:14-20) As soon as A'bram entered Egypt, the Egyptians noticed that the woman was very beautiful. 15 And the princes of Phar'aoh also saw her, and they began praising her to Phar'aoh, so that the woman was taken to the house of Phar'aoh. 16 He treated A'bram well because of her, and he acquired sheep, cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels. 17 Then Jehovah struck Phar'aoh and his household with severe plagues because of Sar'ai, A'bram's wife. 18 So Phar'aoh called A'bram and said: "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? 19 Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I was about to take her as my wife? Here is your wife. Take her and go!" 20 So Phar'aoh gave his men orders concerning him, and they sent him away with his wife and all that he had.

(Genesis 20:2-7) Abraham repeated concerning his wife Sarah: "She is my sister." So A·bim'e-lech king of Ge'rar sent for Sarah and took her. 3 Afterward, God came by night to A·bim'e-lech in a dream and said to him: "Here you are as good as dead because of the woman whom you have taken, since she is married and belongs to another man." 4 However, A·bim'e-lech had not gone near her. So he said: "Jehovah, will you kill a nation that is really innocent? 5 Did he not say to me, 'She is my sister,' and did she too not say, 'He is my brother'? I did this with an honest heart and innocent hands." 6 Then the true God said to him in the dream: "I know that you did this with an honest heart, so I held you back from sinning against me. That is why I did not allow you to touch her. 7 Now return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will make supplication for you and you will keep living. But if you are not returning her, know that you will surely die, you and all who are yours."

(Genesis 26:6-11) So Isaac continued to dwell in Ge'rar. 7 When the men of the place kept asking

about his wife, he would say: "She is my sister." He was afraid to say, "She is my wife," for he said, "The men of the place might kill me because of Re-bek'ah," for she was beautiful in appearance. 8 After some time had passed, A-bim'e-lech king of the Phi-lis'tines was looking out of the window, and he saw Isaac displaying affection for Re-bek'ah his wife. 9 At once A-bim'e-lech called Isaac and said: "She is actually your wife! Why did you say, 'She is my sister'?" At this Isaac said to him: "I said it for fear I should die because of her." 10 But A-bim'e-lech continued: "What have you done to us? One of the people could easily have lain down with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us!" 11 Then A-bim'e-lech commanded all the people, saying: "Anybody touching this man and his wife will surely be put to death!"

Paragraph 3

(Isaiah 5:20) Woe to those who say that good is bad and bad is good, Those who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness, Those who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

(Romans 12:2) And stop being molded by this system of things, but be transformed by making your mind over, so that you may prove to yourselves the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Paragraph 4

(Ecclesiastes 7:16) Do not be overly righteous, nor show yourself excessively wise. Why should you bring ruin to yourself?

(Luke 16:15) So he said to them: "You are those who declare yourselves righteous before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is considered exalted by men is a disgusting thing in God's sight.

Paragraph 5

(Deuteronomy 25:15) You should keep an accurate and honest weight and an accurate and honest measure, so that you will live long in the land that Jehovah your God is giving you.

(Colossians 1:10) so as to walk worthily of Jehovah in order to please him fully as you go on bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the accurate knowledge of God;

Paragraph 6

(Jeremiah 50:7) All those finding them have devoured them, and their enemies have said, 'We are not guilty, because they sinned against Jehovah, against the dwelling place of righteousness and the hope of their forefathers, Jehovah.'"

(Proverbs 14:12) There is a way that seems right to a man, But in the end it leads to death.

(Isaiah 55:8, 9) "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, And your ways are not my ways," declares Jehovah. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So my ways are higher than your ways And my thoughts than your thoughts.

(Genesis 1:27) And God went on to create the man in his image, in God's image he created him; male and female he created them.

(Ephesians 5:1) Therefore, become imitators of God, as beloved children,

Paragraph 8

(Psalm 37:29) The righteous will possess the earth, And they will live forever on it.

Paragraph 9

(Genesis 3:1-6) Now the serpent was the most cautious of all the wild animals of the field that

Jehovah God had made. So it said to the woman: "Did God really say that you must not eat from every tree of the garden?" 2 At this the woman said to the serpent: "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden. 3 But God has said about the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden: 'You must not eat from it, no, you must not touch it; otherwise you will die.'" 4 At this the serpent said to the woman: "You certainly will not die. 5 For God knows that in the very day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and bad." 6 Consequently, the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was something desirable to the eyes, yes, the tree was pleasing to look at. So she began taking of its fruit and eating it. Afterward, she also gave some to her husband when he was with her, and he began eating it.

(Genesis 3:16-19) To the woman he said: "I will greatly increase the pain of your pregnancy; in pain you will give birth to children, and your longing will be for your husband, and he will dominate you." 17 And to Adam he said: "Because you listened to your wife's voice and ate from the tree concerning which I gave you this command, 'You must not eat from it,' cursed is the ground on your account. In pain you will eat its produce all the days of your life. 18 It will grow thorns and thistles for you, and you must eat the vegetation of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you will eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken. For dust you are and to dust you will return."

Paragraph 10

(Genesis 18:20-32) Then Jehovah said: "The outcry against Sod'om and Go-mor'rah is indeed great, and their sin is very heavy. 21 I will go down to see whether they are acting according to the outcry that has reached me. And if not, I can get to know it." 22 Then the men left from there and went toward Sod'om, but Jehovah

remained with Abraham. 23 Then Abraham approached and said: "Will you really sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 24 Suppose there are 50 righteous men within the city. Will you, then, sweep them away and not pardon the place for the sake of the 50 righteous who are inside it? 25 It is unthinkable that you would act in this manner by putting the righteous man to death with the wicked one so that the outcome for the righteous man and the wicked is the same! It is unthinkable of you. Will the Judge of all the earth not do what is right?" 26 Then Jehovah said: "If I find in Sod'om 50 righteous men in the city, I will pardon the whole place for their sake." 27 But Abraham again responded: "Please, here I have presumed to speak to Jehovah, whereas I am dust and ashes. 28 Suppose the 50 righteous should lack five. Because of the five will you destroy the whole city?" To this he said: "I will not destroy it if I find there 45." 29 But yet again he spoke to him and said: "Suppose 40 are found there." He answered: "I will not do it for the sake of the 40." 30 But he continued: "Jehovah, please, do not become hot with anger, but let me go on speaking: Suppose only 30 are found there." He answered: "I will not do it if I find 30 there." 31 But he continued: "Please, here I have presumed to speak to Jehovah: Suppose only 20 are found there." He answered: "I will not destroy it for the sake of the 20." 32 Finally he said: "Jehovah, please, do not become hot with anger, but let me speak just once more: Suppose only ten are found there." He answered: "I will not destroy it for the sake of the ten."

Paragraph 11

(Hebrews 11:17-19) By faith Abraham, when he was tested, as good as offered up Isaac—the man who had gladly received the promises attempted to offer up his only-begotten son—18 although it had been said to him: "What will be called your offspring will be through Isaac."

19 But he reasoned that God was able to raise him up even from the dead, and he did receive him from there in an illustrative way.

(Genesis 22:1-12) Now after this the true God put Abraham to the test, and he said to him: "Abraham!" to which he replied: "Here I am!" 2 Then he said: "Take, please, your son, your only son whom you so love, Isaac, and travel to the land of Mo-ri'ah and offer him up there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I will designate to you." 3 So Abraham got up early in the morning and saddled his donkey and took two of his servants along with him and his son Isaac. He split the wood for the burnt offering, and then he rose and traveled to the place that the true God indicated to him. 4 On the third day, Abraham looked up and saw the place from a distance. 5 Abraham now said to his servants: "You stay here with the donkey, but the boy and I will go over there and worship and return to you." 6 So Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and put it on his son Isaac. Then he took in his hands the fire and the knife, and the two of them walked on together. 7 Then Isaac said to his father Abraham: "My father!" He replied: "Yes, my son!" So he continued: "Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?" 8 To this Abraham said: "God himself will provide the sheep for the burnt offering, my son." And both of them walked on together. 9 Finally they reached the place that the true God had indicated to him, and Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac hand and foot and put him on the altar on top of the wood. 10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. 11 But Jehovah's angel called to him from the heavens and said: "Abraham, Abraham!" to which he answered: "Here I am!" 12 Then he said: "Do not harm the boy, and do not do anything at all to him, for now I do know that you are God-fearing because you have not withheld your son, your only one, from me."

Paragraph 12

(Psalm 73:28) But as for me, drawing near to God is good for me. I have made the Sovereign Lord Jehovah my refuge, To declare all your works.

(Hebrews 5:14) But solid food belongs to mature people, to those who through use have their powers of discernment trained to distinguish both right and wrong.

Paragraph 13

(Psalm 103:14) For he well knows how we are formed, Remembering that we are dust.

(Proverbs 15:9) Jehovah detests the way of the wicked one, But he loves the one who pursues righteousness.

(Psalm 84:5) Happy are the men who find their strength in you, Whose hearts are set on the highways.

(Psalm 84:7) They will walk on from strength to strength; Each one appears before God in Zion.

Paragraph 14

(1 John 5:3) For this is what the love of God means, that we observe his commandments; and yet his commandments are not burdensome,

(Ephesians 6:14-18) Stand firm, therefore, with the belt of truth fastened around your waist, wearing the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having your feet shod in readiness to declare the good news of peace. 16 Besides all of this, take up the large shield of faith, with which you will be able to extinguish all the wicked one's burning arrows. 17 Also, accept the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, that is, God's word, 18 while with every form of prayer and supplication you carry on prayer on every

occasion in spirit. And to that end stay awake, constantly making supplication in behalf of all the holy ones.

(Proverbs 4:23) Above all the things that you guard, safeguard your heart, For out of it are the sources of life.

Paragraph 15

(Philippians 4:8) Finally, brothers, whatever things are true, whatever things are of serious concern, whatever things are righteous, whatever things are chaste, whatever things are lovable, whatever things are well-spoken-of, whatever things are virtuous, and whatever things are praiseworthy, continue considering these things.

Paragraph 16

(Isaiah 48:18) If only you would pay attention to my commandments! Then your peace would become just like a river And your righteousness like the waves of the sea.

Paragraph 17

(Isaiah 40:29-31) He gives power to the tired one And full might to those lacking strength. 30 Boys will tire out and grow weary, And young men will stumble and fall, 31 But those hoping in Jehovah will regain power. They will soar on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary; They will walk and not tire out."

Paragraph 18

(Genesis 18:25) It is unthinkable that you would act in this manner by putting the righteous man to death with the wicked one so that the outcome for the righteous man and the wicked is the same! It is unthinkable of you. Will the Judge of all the earth not do what is right?"

(Matthew 7:1) "Stop judging that you may not be judged;

- ***** (1 Corinthians 5:11) But now I am writing you to stop keeping company with anyone called a brother who is sexually immoral or a greedy person or an idolater or a reviler or a drunkard or an extortioner, not even eating with such a man.
- (1 Corinthians 6:5) I am speaking to move you to shame. Is there not one wise man among you who is able to judge between his brothers?
- (James 5:14, 15) Is there anyone sick among you? Let him call the elders of the congregation to him, and let them pray over him, applying oil to him in the name of Jehovah. 15 And the prayer of faith will make the sick one well, and Jehovah will raise him up. Also, if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.
- (2 Chronicles 19:6) And he said to the judges: "Pay attention to what you are doing, for you do not judge for man but for Jehovah, and he is with you when you pass judgment.

Paragraph 19

(Genesis 37:18-20) Now they caught sight of him from a distance, and before he reached them, they began plotting against him to put him to death. 19 So they said to one another: "Look! Here comes that dreamer. 20 Come, now, let us kill him and pitch him into one of the waterpits, and we will say that a vicious wild animal devoured him. Then let us see what will become of his dreams."

(Genesis 37:27, 28) Come, now, let us sell him to the Ish'ma·el·ites, and do not let our hand be upon him. After all, he is our brother, our flesh."

So they listened to their brother. 28 And when the Mid'i-an·ite merchants were passing by, they lifted Joseph up out of the waterpit and sold him to the Ish'ma·el·ites for 20 pieces of silver. These men took Joseph into Egypt.

(Genesis 37:31-35) So they took Joseph's robe and slaughtered a male goat and dipped the robe in the blood. 32 After that they sent the special robe to their father and said: "This is what we found. Please examine whether this is your son's robe or not." 33 Then he examined it and exclaimed: "It is my son's robe! A vicious wild animal must have devoured him! Joseph is surely torn to pieces!" 34 With that Jacob ripped his garments apart and put sackcloth around his waist and mourned his son for many days. 35 And all his sons and all his daughters kept trying to comfort him, but he kept refusing to take comfort, saying: "I will go down into the Grave mourning my son!" And his father continued weeping for him.

(Genesis 50:15-21) When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said: "It may be that Joseph is harboring animosity against us and that he will repay us for all the evil that we did to him." 16 So they sent a message to Joseph in these words: "Your father gave this command before his death: 17 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: "I beg you, please pardon the transgression of your brothers and the sin they committed in bringing such harm to you.'" Now, please, pardon the transgression of the servants of your father's God.'" And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. 18 Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said: "Here we are as slaves to you!" 19 Joseph said to them: "Do not be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 Although you meant to harm me, God intended it to turn out well and to preserve many people alive, as he is doing today. 21 So now do not be afraid. I will keep supplying you and your little children with food." Thus he comforted them and spoke reassuringly to them.

Paragraph 20

(Proverbs 16:2) All of a man's ways seem right to him, But Jehovah examines the motives.

(2 Corinthians 6:13) So in response—I speak as to my children—you too open your hearts wide.

Paragraph 21

(1 Timothy 2:3, 4) This is fine and acceptable in the sight of our Savior, God, 4 whose will is that all sorts of people should be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth.

(Acts 17:30) True, God has overlooked the times of such ignorance; but now he is declaring to all people everywhere that they should repent.

Paragraph 22

(Matthew 5:6) "Happy are those hungering and thirsting for righteousness, since they will be filled.

(Psalm 146:8) Jehovah is opening the eyes of the blind; Jehovah is raising up those bowed down; Jehovah loves the righteous.